

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06

NEA-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07

NSAE-00 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 ACDA-05 PM-03 L-02

NASA-01 NSC-05 OES-03 OC-05 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01

BIB-01 SS-15 TRSE-00 /112 W
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R 281919Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8797

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, IMCO

SUBJ: INMARSAT CONFERENCE - VICE PRESIDENCIES

1. DURING COURSE IMCO RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING FEB. 24-28, CAPTAIN SAVELIEV OF IMCO APPROACHED HEAD OF USDEL CAPTAIN ADAMS TO DISCUSS ISSUE OF VICE PRESIDENCIES OF INMARSAT CONFERENCE. CAPTAIN ADAMS REPORT-ED THE DISCUSSION AS FOLLOWS:

2. SAVELIEV FIRST TOOK POSITION THAT CHANGE FROM TRADIT-IONAL GEOGRAPHIC AREA REPRESENTATION AS BASIS FOR CHOICE OF PRESIDENT AND 5 VICE PRESIDENTS WHICH, ASSUMING BILLINGTON OF UK WOULD BE PRESIDENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF WESTERN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WOULD PRECLUDE US CHANCES OF ONE OF VICE PRESIDENCIES COULD EASILY CAUSE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED. HE SUGGESTED US MIGHT BE ASKED TO SIT-IN ON STEERING COMMIT-TEE IN SOME UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY.

3. CAPTAIN ADAMS TOLD SAVELIEV HE DOUBTED THAT USDEL
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WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT AN ARRANGEMENT SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED. BASED ON HIS UNDERSTANDING OF US FEELINGS, CAPT.

ADAMS TOLD SAVELIEV THE US WOULD WISH TO BE CHOSEN FOR ONE OF VICE PRESIDENCIES SO THAT US WOULD BE ASSURED IT WOULD BE ABLE TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN WORK OF CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE.

4. LATER, SAVELIEV SUGGESTED WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE WORKABLE METHOD OF OBTAINING VICE PRESIDENCY FOR US. HE SUGGESTED AT THE PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS, BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH US ONE OF DELEGATIONS MIGHT SUGGEST THAT NUMBER OF VICE PRESIDENCIES BE EXPANDED. A SECOND DELEGATION COULD THEN SECOND THIS MOTION AND PROPOSE THAT US BE ADDED TO LIST OF VICE PRESIDENTS IN VIEW OF ITS EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN SPACE AND COMMUNICATIONS FIELDS.

5. CAPTAIN ADAMS ASKED SAVELIEV IF SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD NOT LEAD TO BROAD EXPANSION OF NUMBER OF VICE PRESIDENCIES AS THERE MIGHT BE OTHER DELEGATIONS WHICH WOULD ALSO WISH TO HOLD SUCH OFFICE. IN REPLY, SAVELIEV SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD NOT OCCUR IF US NOMINATED BASED ON ITS LEADING ROLE IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY, BUT ADMITTED AT LEAST ONE OTHER, FRANCE, MIGHT CONSIDER IT TOO SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY BROADENED LIST OF VICE PRESIDENTS.

6. SAVELIEV NOTED DESIRABILITY OF WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENCIES BEFORE CONFERENCE CONVENES SO THAT DISAGREEMENT OVER THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE WILL NOT CAUSE DIFFICULTIES WHICH COULD DISRUPT CO-OPERATION BEFORE CONFERENCE BEGINS WORK. HE SAID IMCO SECRETARIAT WILLING TO ASSIST IN MAKING BEHIND THE SCENES ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS IN TIME LEADING UP TO CONFERENCE BUT THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR NOMINATION OF US SUGGESTED PARA 4 ABOVE SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BY US DIRECTLY

7. COMMENT: SECGEN HAD PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED IN TALKS WITH

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US REPS THAT BEST WAY TO INCLUDE US AMONG VICE PRESIDENTS PROBABLY TO EXPAND NUMBER FROM 5 TO PERHAPS 10. SAVELIEV SUGGESTION APPEARS TO BE VARIANT OF THIS PROPOSAL. BOTH SECGEN AND SAVELIEV IN AGREEMENT THAT TINKERING WITH USUAL GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION SCHEME OF PRESIDENT PLUS VICE PRESIDENTS REPRESENTING TOGETHER 6 AREAS (WESTERN DEVELOPED; EAST BLOC; ASIA; AFRICA; LATIN AMERICA; ARAB COUNTRIES COULD LEAD TO MORE TROUBLE THAN IT WOULD BE WORTH. THEREFORE, TO ACCOMMODATE US, ASSUMING UK WILL OBTAIN PRESIDENCY, ONLY WORKABLE SOLUTION APPEARS TO BE SOME SORT OF EXPANSION. IMPORTANCE OF PLACING US REP IN ONE OF VICE PRESIDENCY SLOTS MIGHT NOT BE AS GREAT IF IT WERE CLEAR THAT THREE PANEL OF EXPERTS WORKING GROUPS WILL BE REESTABLISHED AT MARSAT CONFERENCE AND IT LIKELY THAT US WOULD HAVE CHAIR IN ECONOMIC GROUP. HOWEVER, IF RECENT UK VIEWS (LONDON 2894) REFLECT EUROPEAN THINKING THE WORKING GROUPS MAY NOT BE SET UP UNTIL LATE IN CONFERENCE, OR PERHAPS, ONLY AS INTERSESSIONAL GROUPS PREPARING FOR SECOND SESSION OF MARSAT CONFERENCE. IF THIS IS CASE VICE
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PRESIDENT POSITION PROBABLY ONLY MEANS BY WHICH US COULD HAVE DIRECT ROLE IN GUIDING WORK OF CONFERENCE.

8, ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS WE CAN DISCUSS WITH SECGEN REQUESTED.

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